

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 AEC-11 ACDA-19 OIC-04

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SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13792

GENEVA FOR U.S. DEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, GW

SUBJECT:MBFR: INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL

1. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE ON MBFR OCCURRED DURING
NEW YORK INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL
PUBLISHED IN SEPT 24 DIE WELT. QUOTE.

QUESTION - ARE YOU DISTURBED THAT THE AMERICAN
MBFR CONCEPT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED? IS THIS A CAUSE FOR
CONCERN THAT THE U.S. AND SOVIET UNION ARE PERHAPS
AGREED TO DEAL OVER THE HEADS OF THE EUROPEANS?

SCHEEL - IT IS NO SECRET THAT, IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
OVER MUTUAL BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN
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EUROPE, ONE WILL SPEAK IN THE FIRST PHASE PRESUMABLY

OVER THE REDUCTIONS OF AMERICAN AND SOVIET TROOPS AND WILL, OF COURSE, WITH BASIC DECISIONS CONNECT THIS FIRST PHASE TO THE CONTINUATION IN A SECOND PHASE IN WHICH INDIGENOUS TROOPS SHOULD ALSO BE REDUCED. IT POSSIBLY WAS SURPRISING FOR SOME THAT NUMBERS WERE DISCUSSED (IN THE PRESS ARTICLES) AND THAT IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE OTHER SIDE SHOULD MAKE REDUCTIONS AT A NUMBER DOUBLE THE REDUCTIONS ON OUR SIDE. THIS (PUBLICATION OF NUMBERS) WILL HAVE DISTURBED SOME. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT. FONOFF SOURCES TELL US THE ASPECT OF RECENT MBFR PRESS ARTICLES MOST TROUBLESOME TO FRG OFFICIALS HAS BEEN THE APPARENT DEDUCTION OF SOME JOURNALISTS THAT AMERICAN MBFR CUTS WILL AMOUNT TO SOME THIRTY PERCENT IN THE TWO PHASED EFFORT TO REACH 700,000 MAN COMMON CEILINGS. THIS LINE OF JOURNALISTIC CONJECTURE HAS STIMULATED BOTH EDITORIAL AND (WE ARE TOLD) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONING ABOUT WHERE BUNDESWEHR FORCES COME IN AND REGARDING ULTIMATE POST-MBFR U.S. FORCE LEVELS. SCHEEL'S COMMENTS TO DIE WELT ABOUT INDIGENOUS REDUCTIONS IN MBFR-II ARE PRESUMABLY DESIGNED TO LEAVEN THIS TYPE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRITICISM. CASH

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